



October 12, 2012

**Board of Directors**

Dave Jones, President  
Mountain Valleys Health Centers, Inc.

Gail Nickerson, Past President  
Adventist Health

Lee Barron, President Elect  
Southern Inyo Healthcare District

Judith Shaplin, Secretary  
Mountain Health & Community Services, Inc.

Norma Forbes, Treasurer  
Fresno Healthy Communities Access Partners

Stephen Campbell  
Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District

Richard Gooch  
Anthem Blue Cross

Derrick Gruen  
Adventist Health

Mario Gutierrez  
Center for Connected Health Policy

Kurt Hahn  
Northern Sonoma County Healthcare District

Harry Jasper  
Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District

Woody Laughnan Jr.  
Glenn Medical Center

Christine Martin  
California Telemedicine and eHealth Center

Andie Martinez Patterson  
California Primary Care Association

Sheilamarie Racicot, LMFT

Will Ross  
Redwood MedNet

Eric Villegas  
Health Net of California

Steve Barrow  
Executive Director

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Nominating Eric Brown MBA for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The California State Rural Health Association would like to nominate Eric Brown to serve on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company. Mr. Brown would be an excellent representative of the interests of rural health providers that are eligible to receive supported services pursuant to § 54.601. Eric has an excellent history and broad experience of involvement in telecommunications and has been a remarkable leader in California's efforts to ensure all rural healthcare safety net providers have access to the latest telecommunications necessary to engage in telehealth and health information exchange throughout the vast rural areas of our state.

Eric Brown is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the California Telehealth Network (CTN) which, under his leadership has become the largest Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rural Health Care Pilot Program participant. He has considerable experience deploying, managing and operating broadband networks in rural and urban communities. Under Eric's leadership California has gone from being a state with very limited broadband availability in our 44 rural counties, to having extensive broadband coverage and a plan to provide access in even the most remote frontier areas of our state.

Rural is a major factor in California with 85% of our geographic landmass being rural, spanning over 156,000 square miles, involving 44 of our 58 counties, and home to more than 14% of our population or 5.3 million people. Rural California is important nationally, with one out of every 60 Americans living in rural California.



As the statewide Executive Director of CSRHA, the largest rural health association in our state, and having responsibilities spanning across the far reaches of our state's rural areas, I can attest to the value of Eric's leadership in helping to improve health access in the vast rural areas of our state utilizing telecommunications and telehealth as a key tool in accomplishing our health access efforts.

As a member of the CTN Board of Directors, I can assure you Mr. Brown has the full support of the wide array and types of CTN stakeholder organizations, which include public agencies, private foundations, and health care stakeholder organizations focused on utilizing broadband to improve access to health care in rural communities.

I would appreciate your sincere consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,



Steve Barrow  
Executive Director